



**policy forum**

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULY 31, 2009**

Policy Forum has decided to dedicate this month's debate to the issue of Gender in MKUKUTA. The debate is titled *"Does Gender Matter?" An assessment of Sex – Disaggregation in MKUKUTA Monitoring Reports.*

MKUKUTA, which is a Kiswahili acronym for the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (2005 – 2010), provides the necessary development framework and national efforts to deliver on its national vision 2025. The process of designing MKUKUTA was very participatory, involving among many, various gender actors. As a result, the strategy itself is gender sensitive. But, why should gender be integrated into national's plans and goals?

MKUKUTA aims in making sure that both men and women have equal opportunities hence bringing about gender equality and women's empowerment through creating space for women and men to contribute to, and benefit from the development process for sustainable human development. But, to what extent then, has MKUKUTA been able to achieve this? Does gender matter?

Moreover, does MKUKUTA recognize the gender inequalities have a major impact on poverty and that these inequalities have to be addressed and that poverty is multi-faceted? These issues, along with suggested alternatives to address the issue of Gender in executing MKUKUTA plans, will feature as part of the discussion during the Breakfast Debate on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2009. Invited participants at the meeting include Government representatives, private sector, civil society, donors, the media and concerned citizens. The discussions are held over light breakfast and enable participants to reflect and debate the issues.

The 7:30 People and Policy Debates are held on the last Friday of every month and this month the venue will be the BRITISH COUNCIL along **Ohio Street**, from 0730 to 0930. Their main purpose is to examine and debate the extent to which policies serve ordinary people, and identify imaginative questions and solutions.

The debates are organized by Policy Forum. The main presenters for this month's debate are Prof. Ophella Mascarenhas, retired professor from University of Dar es Salaam and Ms. Shamshad Rehmatullah, independent Consultant.

For more information, contact Alex Ruchyahinduru by email [po2@policyforum.or.tz](mailto:po2@policyforum.or.tz) or telephone number 2772611.

Signed for Policy Forum

---